



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau
525 Camino De Los Marquez, Ste. 4
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-1816
Telephone (505) 827-7536
Fax (505) 827-7545



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 6, 2003
For Immediate Release

Contact: Darren Padilla, Hydrologist, NMED
Phone: (505) 827-1400 x. 1044
Contact: Chris Serazio, Hydrologist, NMED
Phone: (505) 827-1400 x. 1031

Environment Department Advises Members of Agua Negra Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to Lift Boil Water Advisory

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) has advised the Agua Negra Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to lift a boil water advisory for the customers served by their water system.

The Agua Negra water system, located approximately five miles northwest of Mora on State Road 518, was put on a Boil Water Advisory on May 31, 2003 due to bacteriological contamination that resulted in an exceedence of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total coliform and E. Coli bacteria.

Troubleshooting completed this week identified problems associated with improper disinfecting and flushing of recent water line repairs. It was discovered that the water disinfection unit at the well house also was not operating properly.

To address the problem, the water system's entire infrastructure from the water source to storage and distribution lines, has been thoroughly disinfected, flushed, and monitored for chlorine residuals. Significant repairs were also made to the well house treatment plant.

The operators of the Agua Negra MDWCA water system collected and submitted for laboratory analysis five routine compliance samples on June 4, 2003. The final results showed no total coliforms or *E. coli* bacteria in the community water system. As a result, the NMED-DWB, in collaboration with the DOH Office of Epidemiology, determined that it is safe to lift the boil water advisory.

Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, the presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Customers of the Village water system were advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

For more information regarding the status of the water system, contact Darren Padilla, Hydrologist, NMED, at (505) 827-1400 x.1044 or Chris Serazio, Hydrologist, NMED at x.1031.

###